(b) The total project cost of Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development Project is Rs. 3108.9 million (equivalent to U.S. 134.0 million). Assistance/ loan from the World Bank in the project is U.S. 117.5 million.

कृषि एक उद्योग के रूप में

1483. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार कृषि को उद्योग का दर्जा देने के किसी प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुल्लापल्ली रामचंद्रन) : (क) और (ख) भारत सरकार ने कृषि को उद्योग के रूप में घोषित करने से संबंधित मुद्दे पर विचार करने के लिये श्री भानुप्रताप सिंह की अध्यक्षता में एक सलाहकार समिति का गठन किया था । इस विषय से संबंधित समिति की सिफारिशों पर विचार किया जा रहा है ।

Perspective Plan for land resources

1484. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a draft perspective Plan for conservation, management and development of land resources was considered at the Conference of State Agriculture Ministers held on October 21 1991;

(b) if so, the salient features of the draft Plan and whether the same was adopted at the Conference; if so, the details of modifications, if any; and

(c) the steps being taken in furtherance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A National Consultation for formulation of a Perspective Plan for the Conservation, Development & Management of land resources of the country was held on 21st to 24th October, 1991 at New Delhi. This was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Agriculture and was attended by Senior officials of Central Ministries|Deptt.|Organisation Agri. Production Commt.|Develop Commn. and other senior officers of State Governments eminent Scientists, experts and Project Coordinators of six zones of the country engaged in the Preparation of Zonal Perspective Plan. (PP).

(b) and (c) As a follow up action of the National Consultation, State level Consultation have been planned for the formulation of State Perspective Plans and finalisation of Zonal Plan. Based on the Zonal plans, Draft National P.P. for conservation, Development & Management of Land Resources of the country will be prepared.

Relief to Handloom weavers in drought affected areas

1485. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated guidelines to provide relief to handloom weavers and other classes of artisans and agricultural workers in drought affected areas; and

(b) what are the proposals Government are considering to help handloom weavers, who remain unemployed for 15 days or more due to one reason or the other?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure complete autonomy has been given to the State Governments. A State level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the State is empowered to decide on all matters connected with the financing of relief expenditure including norms of assistance for providing relief to the people affected by natural calamities.

(b) Ministry of Textiles has taken following measures to improve the conditions of handloom weavers.

(i) National Handloom Development Corporation has been asked to augment yarn supply to State agencies and to open yarn depots in areas of weavers concentration.

(ii) Directions have been issued to National Textiles Corporation to increase production of Yarn. NTC has also been advised to set up depots and sell yarn and to give due publicity to stocks and prices of yarn available.

(iii) Directions have also been issued to Textile Commissioners to check the reports of hoarding by yarn dealers.

(iv) A ban has been imposed on export of cotton yarn in view of the crisis in internal market.

In addition to the above, Ministry of Textiles has sent a detailed letter to the Chief Ministers of States indicating the following points for specific action:—

(i) Creation of a regular high-level monitoring mechanism at the State Headquarters to review regularly the prices, production and distribution of yarn.

(ii) State level handloom agencies to step up yarn supplies and to open yarn depots in areas of shortages.

(iii) Spinning mills in the cooperative/State Sector to bring about a sobering influence in the yarn market and to curb their tendency to [illegible] with the market.

(iv) District Collectors to intensify checking of yarn dealers in the district who are obliged to maintain records of their stock and the prevailing prices.

1486. [*Transferred to the 10 th December*, 1991]

Soil erosion

1487. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Statewise Central assistance provided during Sixth and Seventh Plan Period to check soil erosion;

(b) what is the Statewise provision made for the Eighth Plan; and

(c) what is the additional amount allocated for the States of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh for the Eighth Plan Period as ocmpared to the Seventh Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The information is given in the Statement attached (*See* below).

(b) The outlay of Eighth Five Year Plan is yet to be decided by the Planning Commission.

(c) Does not arise.